

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARCH 30, 1963

FOR THE PRESS

NO. 169

STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND JUSTICE

The position of the United States Government regarding hit-and-run attacks by Cuban refugee groups against Soviet ships and other targets in Cuba has been made perfectly clear by the President and the Secretary of State.

These attacks are neither supported nor condoned by this Government. The President has pointed out that they may have effects opposite those presumably intended by those who carry them out; that is, they may strengthen the Soviet position in Cuba rather than weaken it, tighten Communist controls rather than loosen them.

Our preliminary evidence suggests that these raids have not in fact been launched from the territory of the United States. However, the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, with the cooperation of the Coast Guard and Customs Service, are intensifying their investigations. We intend to take every step necessary to insure that such raids are not launched, manned, or equipped from U. S. territory.

The sympathy

The sympathy of this Government and of the American people is with those Cubans who hope to see their country freed from Communist control. We understand that these raids, reflect the deep frustration of men who want to get back to their homeland, to a Cuba that is independent.

But this understanding does not mean that we are prepared to see our own laws violated with impunity, or to tolerate activities which might provoke armed reprisals, the brunt of which would be borne by the armed forces of the United States.

* * *